

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. An image forming device comprising:
2 a housing including a media path arranged to guide media;
3 a sensor configured to obtain encoded data from the media and to
4 output a signal indicative of the encoded data; and
5 imaging circuitry configured to form hard images upon the media, to
6 receive the signal and to perform at least one function with respect to the
7 formation of the hard images within the image forming device responsive to the
8 encoded data indicated within the signal.

1 2. The image forming device in accordance with claim 1 wherein
2 the sensor is configured to obtain the encoded data from the media comprising a
3 plurality of discrete sheets.

1 3. The image forming device in accordance with claim 1 wherein
2 the imaging circuitry is configured to form the hard images upon the media
3 according to an imaging parameter and to perform the at least one function
4 comprising adjusting the imaging parameter.

1 4. The image forming device in accordance with claim 3 further
2 comprising another sensor configured to monitor at least one ambient condition
3 within the environment of the image forming device and to output a signal
4 indicative of the at least one ambient condition, and wherein the imaging circuitry
5 is configured to adjust the imaging parameter responsive to the signal from the
6 another sensor.

1 5. The image forming device in accordance with claim 3 further
2 comprising:

3 storage circuitry configured to store a plurality of initial settings for
4 the imaging parameter and corresponding to a plurality of media types, and wherein
5 the imaging circuitry is configured to access at least one of the settings responsive
6 to the encoded data identifying the media; and

7 an interface configured to receive updated settings and wherein the
8 storage circuitry is configured to store the updated settings to replace the initial
9 settings.

1 6. The image forming device in accordance with claim 1 further
2 comprising an interface configured to implement communications externally of the
3 image forming device, and wherein the imaging circuitry is configured to perform
4 the at least one function comprising generating a message identifying the media,
5 and applying the message to the interface for communication to a host device
6 coupled with the interface.

1 7. The image forming device in accordance with claim 6 wherein
2 the generating the message comprises generating the message to identify the type
3 and the brand of media for display using the host device.

1 8. The image forming device in accordance with claim 6 wherein
2 the message comprises an order to assist with replenishment of the media.

1 9. The image forming device in accordance with claim 1 wherein
2 the imaging circuitry is configured to perform the at least one function comprising
3 preventing formation of hard images upon the media.

1 10. The image forming device in accordance with claim 1 further
2 comprising:

3 a plurality of media supplies individually configured to supply a given
4 type of media individually having encoded data; and

5 an additional sensor, wherein the sensors are individually associated
6 with a respective one of the media supplies and configured to obtain encoded data
7 from the respective media and to output a signal indicative of the encoded data.

1 11. The image forming device in accordance with claim 1 wherein
2 the imaging circuitry is configured to print hard images upon media.

1 12. An image forming device comprising:

2 a housing including a media path arranged to guide media;

3 an interface configured to implement communications externally of the
4 image forming device;

5 a plurality of media supplies individually configured to supply sheet
6 media having encoded data;

7 a plurality of first sensors individually associated with a respective one
8 of the media supplies and configured to obtain encoded data from the respective
9 media and to output a signal indicative of the encoded data;

10 a second sensor configured to monitor at least one ambient condition
11 within the environment of the image forming device and to output a signal
12 indicative of the at least one ambient condition;

13 an image engine configured to print hard images upon the media
14 according to an imaging parameter;

15 storage circuitry configured to store a plurality of settings for the
16 imaging parameter and corresponding to a plurality of respective media types; and

17 control circuitry configured to access at least one setting from the
18 storage circuitry responsive to the signals from at least one of the first sensors and
19 the second sensor and to control adjustment of the imaging parameter responsive
20 to the at least one setting, and to generate a message identifying a brand and type

21 of media, and to apply the message to the interface for communication to a host
22 device coupled with the interface to display the brand and the type of media using
1 the host device.

1 13. A method of forming hard images comprising:
2 moving media along a media path of an image forming device;
3 forming hard images upon the media using the image forming device;
4 retrieving encoded data from the media using the image forming
5 device; and
6 performing at least one function with respect to the media using the
7 image forming device responsive to the encoded data.

1 14. The method in accordance with claim 13 wherein the retrieving
2 comprises retrieving the encoded data from the media comprising a plurality of
3 discrete sheets.

1 15. The method in accordance with claim 13 wherein the forming
2 comprises forming according to at least one imaging parameter, and the performing
3 the at least one function comprises adjusting the imaging parameter.

1 16. The method in accordance with claim 15 further comprising
2 monitoring at least one ambient condition within the environment of the image
3 forming device, and wherein the adjusting is further responsive to the monitoring.

1 17. The method in accordance with claim 15 further comprising:
2 storing a plurality of initial settings for the imaging parameter and
3 corresponding to a plurality of media types;
4 replacing the initial settings with updated settings at a subsequent
5 moment in time; and
6 accessing at least one of the initial settings and the updated settings

1 responsive to the encoded data identifying the media to control the adjusting.

1 18. The method in accordance with claim 13 wherein the
2 performing the at least one function comprises communicating a message
3 identifying the media to a host device.

1 19. The method in accordance with claim 13 wherein the
2 performing the at least one function comprises communicating a message
3 identifying the media by brand and type for display using a host device.

1 20. The method in accordance with claim 13 wherein the forming
2 hard images comprises printing.